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16. (Twice Amended) A reproduction method comprising the steps of:
reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a
number of frames comprising said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame
data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image; and
processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of
frames reproduced in said reproducing step;
wherein multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural
rectangular frames each being of a same size.

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17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the medium comprises a
magnetic disk.

18. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the multi-frame data
comprises compressed data.

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 13 to 18, the
independent claims being Claims 13 and 16.

Claims 13 and 16 have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's
invention from the cited art.

In the Official Action dated September 14, 2001, Claims 13 to 18 were
rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,931,879 (Koga).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The present invention relates to a novel reproduction apparatus and method of reproducing multi-frame data from a medium. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 13, the present invention relates to a reproduction apparatus comprising reproduction means for reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames constituting the multi-frame data are recorded, where the multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image, and processing means for processing the multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced by the reproduction means. As amended, Claim 13 recites that the multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural rectangular frames each being of a same size.

Independent Claim 16 relates to a reproduction method and corresponds substantially to Claim 13. Claim 16 has thus also been amended to recite that the multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of rectangular frames each being of the same size.

Support for the claim amendments is shown, for example, in Figs. 6A and 6B, and discussed beginning on page 10, line 8 of the specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, multi-frame data representing same size rectangular frames can be efficiently processed.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of July 10, 2001, the Koga '879 patent relates to an image processing system for recording or reproducing an image signal sequence which has been encoded by employing two predictive coding methods and

combining the results of those methods, and discloses a system and method for recording a sequence of coded signals on a recording medium, such as a CD-ROM. However, even if Koga can be said to inherently teach a plurality of pictures (e.g., a displayed image and background picture) in a single image as asserted in the Official Action, it is submitted that Applicant's claimed processing of multi-frame data representing a multi-frame composed of a plurality of rectangular frames of the same size is not taught or suggested in Koga.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits is that independent Claims 13 and 16 are allowable over the prior art of record. In addition, Claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 depend from Claims 13 and 16, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

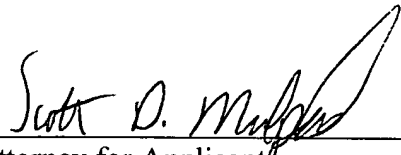
Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the present amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and reduce the number of issues for consideration. Applicant believes the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Official Action, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in

allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

13. (Amended) A reproduction apparatus comprising:

reproduction means for reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames constituting said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image; and

processing means for processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced by said reproduction means;

wherein said multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural rectangular frames each being of a same size.

16. (Twice Amended) A reproduction method comprising the steps of:

reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames comprising said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image; and

processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced in said reproducing step;

wherein multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural rectangular frames each being of a same size.